

(copy)

PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Box RCE, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

October 29, 2001
Date

Ayesha S. Wilks
Ayesha S. Wilks

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal

Attorney Docket No.: 501082.13 (98-0616.12)

Serial No. : 09/652,968

Group Art Unit : 2815

Filed : August 31, 2000

Examiner : Jose R. Diaz

Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A
CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.114**

Box RCE
Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant requests continued examination, under 37 C.F.R. 1.114, of the above-identified application.

1. Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. 1.114

- a. ☐ Submission previously submitted
 - i. ☐ Consider the amendment/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on _____.
 - ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
 - iii. ☐ Consider the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) previously filed on _____.
- b. ☒ Submission enclosed
 - i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
 - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

2. Suspension of Action (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i) required)

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. 1.103(c) for a period of ___ months.

3. Accompanying Papers

☒ Postcard
☒ Check
☒ Fee Transmittal Sheet
☐ Petition

4. Deposit Account

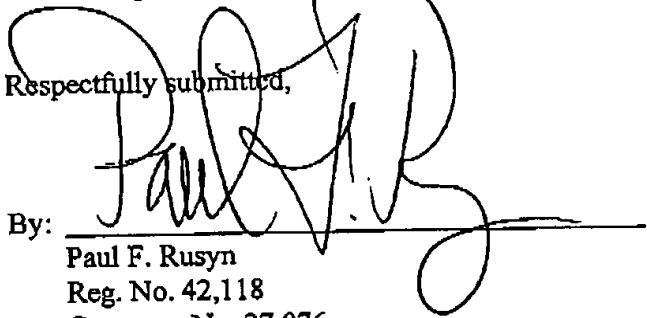
☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required in the above-identified patent application to Deposit Account No. 50-1266.

Date:

29 Oct. 01

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 43, 44, 76 and 77 as follows:

43. (Amended) A method of passivating a multiplayer conductive structure, comprising:
- layering a first conductive material;
 - introducing a selection of N_2/H_2 , N_2 , and NH_3 plasma to said first conductive material;
 - releasing nitrogen from said plasma with electromagnetic energy;
 - and